

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
 - (a) providing a presence device associated with a communication device, the presence device operable in a first mode and a second mode;
 - (b) if the presence device is operating in the first mode, biometrically authenticating a user using the presence device and receiving a presence confirmation input from the communication device; and
 - (c) if the presence device is operating in the second mode, receiving a user-entered log-in input from the communication device and authenticating the user entered login input; and
 - (d) in response to (b) or (c), updating a central presence database to indicate that the communication device is active for the user to receive at least one message.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the communication device comprises a telephone, and wherein said biometrically authenticating comprises authenticating a voice of the user during a call using the telephone.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the call is made between the user and a party, and wherein said authenticating the voice of the user is independent of the party.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the user is a calling party of the call.
5. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the user is a called party of the call.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the communication device comprises a keyboard, and wherein said biometrically authenticating comprises authenticating a fingerprint of the user as the user types using the keyboard.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein said authenticating a fingerprint of the user is independent of a software application for which the user types using the keyboard.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the presence device is embedded with the communication device.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the presence device is removably interfaced with the communication device.

10. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
a communication device;
a presence device associated with the communication device, the presence device operable in a first mode and a second mode; and a central presence database responsive to the communication device to indicate that the communication device is active for the user to receive at least one message in response to (a) biometrically authenticating a user using the presence device and receiving a presence confirmation input from the communication device if the presence device is operating in the first mode, and (b) receiving a user-entered log-in input from the communication device and authenticating the login input if the presence device is operating in the second mode.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the communication device comprises a telephone, and wherein said biometrically authenticating comprises authenticating a voice of the user during a call using the telephone.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11 wherein the call is made between the user and a party, and wherein said authenticating the voice of the user is independent of the party.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12 wherein the user is a calling party of the call.
14. (Original) The system of claim 12 wherein the user is a called party of the call.
15. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the communication device comprises a keyboard, and wherein said biometrically authenticating comprises authenticating a fingerprint of the user as the user types using the keyboard.
16. (Original) The system of claim 15 wherein said authenticating a fingerprint of the user is independent of a software application for which the user types using the keyboard.
17. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the presence device is embedded with the communication device.
18. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the presence device is removably interfaced with the communication device.